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**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION REPORT (POLREP)**

Date: September 9, 1998
Subject: Rogers Fibre Mill Superfund Site
From: OSC Janis Tsang, US EPA, Region I
To: Attached List
POLREP No.: 1
Site ID No.: 5Z
Contract #/D.O. #: 68-S3-2001/2001-02-164
Response Authority: CERCLA
NPL Status: Non-NPL
State Notification: ME DEP notified
Cause of Release: Improper Storage of Drums/Tanks/Containers
Mobilization Date: July 1, 1998

Site Information

The Rogers Fibre Mill Site is an abandoned fiberboard manufacturing facility located on Depot Street in a residential area of Bar Mills (a village in the Town of Buxton), York County, Maine. The Site is further described as Lots 46 and 47 on Buxton Tax Map 12. The combined total area of the two lots is approximately 1.94 acres. The Site is bordered by Depot Street to the northeast, by residential properties to the southeast and northwest, and by the Saco River to the southwest.

The Site consists of a one to three-story main mill building, including a large water tower, a smoke stack, two separate unfenced parking areas, and a single family house. The main mill building is over 100 years old and is approximately 56,360 square feet. According to a Buxton Town official, the house is currently occupied by a family with young children.

The main mill building is situated adjacent to and partially above the Saco River with a water sluiceway flowing under/through a portion of the building. The majority of the mill complex is in a state of disrepair, with portions having collapsed onto itself or into the Saco River. Adjacent to the mill building is a dam and hydroelectric plant operated by Central Maine Power Company (CMP).

Approximately 57 residences are located within a quarter mile of the Site and an elementary school is located approximately one-half mile from the Site.

The Saco River is a Class A river under the Maine State Water Classification Program. According to the Saco River Corridor Commission, the river supplies more than two billion gallons of drinking water annually to the cities and towns of Saco, Biddeford, Old Orchard Beach (OOB), Kennebunk, portions of Scarborough and Kennebunkport. It is also used for recreational activities such as canoeing and fishing. The Saco River Salmon Club (SRSC) annually stocks

young salmon into the river's tributaries in an effort to restore Atlantic Salmon to the Saco River watershed. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (ME DIFW) has annually stocked the Saco River with approximately 1,800 brook and brown trout. Approximately 200 trout are actually stocked at the Bar Mills Dam by the Site.

The Site was used as a fiberboard manufacturing facility from approximately 1917 to 1980. The manufacturing processes conducted are unknown. Since the facility was abandoned, unknown materials in both tanks and other containers remain in the mill. The mill structure has deteriorated to the extent that portions of the mill have collapsed. On June 3, 1997, the Site was referred to EPA by the Honorable Olympia J. Snowe, United States Senator, as a potential removal site.

Response Information

I. Situation:

On September 25, 1997, EPA conducted a preliminary assessment/ site investigation (PA/SI) at the site and observed several drums, 1-gallon containers, two metal tanks, one wooden tank and one concrete vault with unknown contents within the facility. Access to the Site was unrestricted, and there was evidence of trespassing and vandalism throughout a portion of the facility. Due to the poor structural condition of the mill buildings and in light of personal safety concerns, the OSC did not identify the contents or the condition of each tank, or make a complete inventory of the drums and containers inside the building.

Friable asbestos debris piles and non-friable asbestos-containing roofing shingles were scattered throughout the main building. The presence of asbestos may have been a result of deteriorated pipe and equipment insulation, and the degradation and collapse of the roof. Broken windows were observed throughout the facility.

Samples were collected and the laboratory results indicated that three of the four solid samples contained up to 95 percent asbestos. One solid sample from a tank was found to be contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOC) such as methylene chloride (700 ug/g (parts-per-million (ppm))), carbon tetrachloride (130 ppm) and benzene (30 ppm). One solid sample from a floor contained copper (550 ppm), zinc (510 ppm) and lead (1000 ppm).

In light of the fact that the site may pose possible threats to both drinking water quality and the Atlantic Salmon restocking efforts at the Saco River, the OSC determined that a removal action at the Site was warranted.

On June 19, 1998, an Action Memorandum was signed by the Director of the EPA Office of Site Remediation and Restoration which approved a removal ceiling of \$960,000. Phase 1 of the removal action involved removal and disposal of known, accessible hazardous materials, and removal of the dilapidated structure to ensure proper disposal of any hazardous materials which were inaccessible or hidden in the debris, and appropriate disposal of the debris. The latter task

included demolition of all the (connected) structures which made up the mill, as partial demolition would have left unstable structures.

II. Removal Actions Taken:

- On July 1, 1998, OSC Tsang, EPA Community Relations Coordinator (CRC) Erin Heskett, personnel from OHM, Weston-START and ME DEP met on-site to conduct a site walk. OSC Tsang and CRC Heskett also briefed Peter Morin of Senator Snowe's Office, Mike Towns (CMP), William Johnson, the Saco City Mayor, representatives of the Towns of Buxton, Biddeford and OOB, reporters from the Portland Press Herald, and Television Channel 13 about the upcoming removal actions.
- On July 6, 1998, OSC Tsang, James Fein (Weston-START), Alan Humphrey (EPA/Environmental Response Team (ERT)), Mike Mohn (Weston- Response, Engineering, Analytical Contract (REAC)), Bill Shively (Weston-Manchester Civil Engineer), Joe Fort (OHM Response Manager), Barry Taggart (OHM T&D Coordinator), and Kris Alzheimer (OHM Civil Engineer) met on-site to conduct a building inspection. Two 12-inch pipes were discovered in the sub-basement. One pipe was flowing full.
- During the week of July 6, 1998, EPA and Weston-START also conducted additional asbestos sampling in the basement area.
- On July 8, 1998, OSC Tsang met with Dennis Finn, director of the Saco River Corridor Commission (SRCC) at the Buxton Town Hall to discuss the upcoming removal action and the SRCC permit requirements for the Site.
- On July 14, 1998, OSC Tsang met with Roger Hyde (Weston-Manchester, Structural Engineer), Bill Shively (Weston), Mike Towns (CMP) and Mike Pellettier (CMP) to inspect/ evaluate the structural connection between the mill foundation and the CMP dam. Maine State Senator James Libby was also present at the meeting.
- During the week of July 14, 1998, EPA and Weston-START collected soil, wood chip, and concrete samples for analyses of PCB/pesticides, semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOC) and metals.
- On July 16, 1998, at the request of CFH, Inc. (CFH), the current property owner (a potentially responsible party, PRP), EPA met with CFH to discuss the upcoming removal action and the PRP's liability. Patrick Canonica, Carl Franson and Jeffrey Jones (attorney for CFH) represented CFH. A second meeting was later conducted among personnel from EPA, CFH, ME DEP, Town of Buxton, CMP and Senator Snowe's office to discuss the actions to-date and future activities at the site. Attorneys from each party also attended the second meeting.
- On July 21, 1998, in accordance to the SRCC requirements, OSC Tsang sent out a public notification letter to residents within 500 feet of the Site.

- On July 21, 1998, OSC Tsang and CMP met with two engineers from U.S. Army Corporation of Engineers (USACE) to inspect the dam and the adjacent mill foundation. USACE will provide an evaluation of the applicable, relevant and appropriate requirements (ARARs) pertinent to the site based upon their inspection, especially in reference to the dam and wetland regulatory requirements.
- On July 22, 1998, OSC Tsang and Bill Shively (Weston) attended a SRCC public meeting to present a conceptual removal plan including demolition, waste collection and spill contingency strategy. The SRCC unanimously approved EPA's actions.
- On July 27, 1998, OSC Tsang met with the tenants of an on-site residence to discuss the upcoming removal action and their temporary relocation. OSC Tsang also visited several nearby residents to answer their questions regarding the relocation. Weston-REAC made an unsuccessful attempt, using a boat and a underwater camera, to locate the two 12-inch diameter pipes from upstream side of the mill foundation. A pre-bid meeting for a (marine) diver subcontract was held on-site with prospective bidders to discuss the two 12-inch diameter pipes, underwater conditions by the building foundation, and the anticipated scope of work for the diver subcontract (including locating and plugging of the two 12-inch diameter pipes).
- Beginning the week of July 27, 1998, EPA and its contractors commenced the mobilization of equipment and an office trailer to the site, and set up a command post.
- On July 28, 1998, OSC Tsang met with Mr. Brian Thomson of Lydall Eastern, Inc. (parent company of Rogers Fibre) to discuss EPA involvement and removal actions to date, and the upcoming removal plan. A pre-bid meeting for a demolition subcontract was conducted on-site with prospective bidders. Topics discussed included the anticipated scope of work and health and safety concerns/requirements for the demolition work to be performed.
- On July 29, 1998, OSC Tsang gave a presentation about the removal action to citizens and the selectmen at the weekly selectmen meeting.
- On July 30, 1998, OSC Tsang and CRC Heskett visited nearby residents to deliver a site newsletter and answer questions regarding the removal of drums and containers, commencing the week of August 3. A pre-bid meeting for an asbestos subcontract was held on-site with prospective bidders. Topics discussed included the anticipated scope of work which included the removal of asbestos piles, the performance of an asbestos survey, and the removal of any identified asbestos.
- The total number of drums/containers/packages found to-date in the building are as follows:
 - 2, 55-gallon drums containing unknown liquid
 - 2, 55-gallon drums containing unknown solids
 - 1, 55-gallon drum containing sodium aluminate(caustic)
 - 2, 55-gallon drums with unknown contents

- 1 wooden box of grease bars
 - 1 bag with label "Thoroseal" (approx. 40 lbs)
 - 4, 5-gallon containers with unknown materials
 - 13, 1-gallon containers with unknown materials.
- On August 11, 1998, a local citizen stopped by EPA command post claiming possible exposure to E. Coli bacteria by her son from swimming in the Saco River a short distance downstream of the site. She requested EPA and the Town investigate the problems. At the request of Buxton Selectman, EPA collected a total of four water samples and sent them to EPA New England Regional Laboratory for total fecal coliform counts (FCC).
 - On August 12, 1998, three of the four FCC results exceeded the safe level for swimming recommended by the ME Dept. of Public Health (DPH). OSC Tsang informed the town of the results. Dr. George Gardner, Buxton Health Officer determined that warning signs be posted to keep people out from swimming in areas where samples with unacceptable levels of FCC were taken.
 - On August 13, 1998, OSC Tsang was interviewed by Channels 8, 13, 51 and the Portland Press Herald regarding the water sampling results.
 - From August 14 to August 19, 1998, OSC Randy Rice oversaw site activities in OSC Tsang's absence.
 - From August 18 to August 25, 1998, Alan Humphrey (EPA/ERT), Scott Grossman (Weston-REAC) and Diver Down (a underwater diving company subcontracted through Weston- REAC) investigated, located and plugged two 12-inch diameter under water pipes within the mill foundation. The objective of the investigation and closure of the pipes was to minimize water flow through the basement level of the mill complex and the subsequent off-site migration of demolition debris.
 - On August 20, 1998, EPA collected a total of four surface water and four sediment samples from the site vicinity to determine background contamination. The four surface water samples are analyzed for asbestos, VOC, SVOC, PCB/Pest., total metals, dissolved metals, and AVS SEM (bioavailability of metals). The four sediment samples are analyzed for total organic carbon (TOC), asbestos, VOC, SVOC, PCB/Pest., total metals, dissolved metals, and AVS SEM.
 - On August 21, 1998, OHM awarded a demolition subcontract to Jay-Mor Enterprises (Jay-Mor) of Pelham, NH. EPA met with Mary Tremblay and Brian Thomson of Lydall and provided them with additional site information and analytical data generated so far during the removal activities.
 - On August 24, 1998, a meeting was held among EPA, Weston, OHM, Jay-Mor and Buxton officials to discuss Phase I demolition and traffic plans.

- On August 24, 1998, EPA collected a total of 12 samples for SVOC, total metals, PCB/Pest., TCLP SVOC, and TCLP metals. Four samples were taken to the digesters. Seven samples were taken from miscellaneous debris and soil piles on the "island". One sample was taken from an area south of building #1.
- On August 26, 1998, OSC Tsang and Bill Shively (Weston) presented a Phase I demolition plan at the SRCC meeting.
- On August 27, 1998, EPA held a public informational meeting at the Town Hall to provide an update on site activities and to discuss the upcoming Phase I demolition plan.
- On August 28, 1998, Jay-Mor began mobilization of equipment and personnel to the site perform Phase I demolition.

III. Cost Information¹: As of August 28, 1998

	Ceiling	Estimated Expenditure	Balance
ERCS:	\$ 500,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 400,000
START:	100,000	65,000	35,000
EPA:	120,000	40,400	79,600
EPA/ERT:	50,000	25,000	25,000
ACOE:	50,000	15,000	35,000
CONTINGENCY:	140,000	-0-	140,000
TOTAL:	\$ 960,000	\$ 245,400	\$ 714,600

IV. Future Plans:

- Complete Phase I demolition.
- Coordinate with CMP and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to evaluate the dam and building foundation. Depending upon CMP and FERC recommendations, OSC Tsang will amend the Action Memorandum for Phase II work, which may include final waste disposal, demolition of concrete structures, and the regrading of the area to a physically safe condition.
- Continue to coordinate with the responsible parties for possible taking over of the removal of the drum/containers.

CASE PENDING

¹The above costs do not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

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- x National Response Center (G-TGC-2), Headquarters USCG,
Room 2611, 2100 2nd St., S.W., Washington, DC 20593
First U.S. Coast Guard District, Commander (m),
408 Atlantic Ave., Boston, MA 02210-2209
x US EPA, Art Johnson, Emergency Response Division (5202G)
401 M St., S.W., Washington, DC 20460

For Federally Funded Oil Spills

- Eleanor Deegan, c/o Commander (FCP-2), 300 East Main St. Suite 965,
Norfolk, VA 23510-9113
Commander (cm), National Pollution Fund Center
4200 Wilson Blvd., Suite 1000, Arlington, VA 22203-1804

EPA, Boston

- x John P. DeVillars, Regional Administrator, ORA-100
x Steve Perkins, Office of Admin. & Resource Mgt., Immed. Off OARM-700
x Nancy Grantham, Office of Regional Administrator, ORAA-100
x Johanna Hunter, Office of Senior Advisor for Policy, ORA-103
x Rudy Brown, Gov't Relations, RGR
Gov't Relations Contact (by State):
CT/ME - Michael Ochs, Office of Senior Advisor for Policy ORA-103
MA - Al Frezza, Office of Senior Advisor for Policy, ORA-103
NH/RI/VT - Rudy Brown, RGR
x Thomas Papineau, Investigations Office, OIG/I
x Paul McKechnie, Investigations Office, OIG/A
x ~~Joanna Jerison, Enforcement, Immed Off., PES-404~~
x Designated ORC Attorney
x Linda Byrne - Contracts, Procurement & Facilities, OARM-703
x Hilary Kelley - Contracts, Procurement & Facilities, OARM-703
x Ray DiNardo
x Josh Nemzer
x Don Grant, SEW
x Erin Heskett
x Angela Bonnarigo
x Ken Finklestein

Regional Response Team

- M_x DOI, Andrew Raddant, Regional Environmental Officer,
408 Atlantic Avenue, Room 142, Boston, MA 02110-3334
M DOD (USN, USA, USAF, DLA)

- P_x NOAA, Gerald Wheaton, G-MOR, C/O USCG Commandant, 2100 2nd St. S.W. Rm
2100, Washington, DC 20593

EPA, OSRR

☒ Patricia Meaney, Director, Office Of Site Remed & Restoration, OSRR-500
☒ Frank Ciavattieri, Off Of Site Remed. & Restoration, OSRR-500
☒ Dennis Huebner, Off Of Site Remed. & Restoration, OSRR-500
☒ ~~Rich Cavagnero~~
☒ Sharon Fennelly/Tina Hennessy
Enforcement Files (HARD COPY)
Dave McIntyre | Which Section
Steve Novick | OSC Is In
Dennisses Valdes | (for Emergency Responses only)
☒ Cheryl O'Halloran (CERCLIS Coordinator)
☒ Filomena M. DiNardo/Caroline Marchant - Contract Management OSRR-514
☒ John Carlson- Contract Management, OSRR-514
☒ Lynne Galvin
☒ Vivian Coughlin
☒ Fran Kearns
☒ Bill Verdone
☒ Office File (w/Original Distribution List)
☒ OSC (w/Copy of Distribution List)

Other: _____ Other: _____

Other: _____ Other: _____

M _____ Philip O'Brien, NH Dept. of Environmental Services
P.O. Box 95, 6 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301-6509

M _____ Mark Begley, Mass. Dept. of Env. Prot., Bureau of Waste
Site Cleanup, 1 Winter Street, Boston, MA 02159

M _____ (Name _____)
RI Dept. of Environmental Management
291 Promenade St.
Providence, RI 02908-5767

M _____ (Name _____)
Conn. Dept. of Environmental Protection
79 Elm St.
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

M _____ (Name _____)
Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation
103 South Main St., West Bldg.
Waterbury, VT 05671-0404

M _____ (Name _____)
Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection
State House - Station 17
Augusta, ME 04333

Senator James D. Libby
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Frances R Towns Jr Manager
Southern Hydro Operations
RR2 Box 780
West Buxton, ME 04093

Journal Tribune
Amy Welch, Staff Writer
P.O. Box 627
Biddeford, ME 04005

Dennis Finn, Exec. Director
Saco River Corridor Commission
PO Box 283
Cornish ME 04020

Peter Morin Reg. Representative
201 Main St
Biddeford ME 04005

Steven J Eufemia
ME DEP Haz. Mat.Div.
312 Canco Rd
Portland ME 04103

Bob Brandenstein, Selectman
Town of Buxton RR#, Box 225A
Portland Rd
Gorham ME 04038

Fred Farnham, Code Enf. Officer
Portland Rd Buxton
RR#3 Box 225A
Gorham ME 04038

Ed Baum
ME Atl. Salmon Authority
650 State St
Bangor ME 02401-5854

John Boland
ME Dept Inland Fish & Wildlife
RR#1 328 Shaker Rd
Grey ME 04039

Robert Boilard
Saco Yacht Club
31A Clifford St
Biddeford ME 04005

Mary Colligan
Natl Marine Fisheries Service
One Blackburn Dr
Gloucester MA 01930-2298

Betsy Elder
State Planning Office
184 State St State House Station 38
Augusta ME 04333

Lew Flagg
Dept of Marine Resources
State House Station #21
Augusta ME 04333

Brent McCarthy
Dept of Envir. Protection
State House Station #17
Augusta ME 04333

Sonny D Pierce Jr
ME Atl. Salmon Authority
PO Box 187
West Buxton ME 04093

Bob Rickter
Central Maine Power Co
Edison Dr
Augusta ME 04072

Gordon Russell
US Fish & Wildlife Serv.
1033 So Main St
Old Town ME 04468

Mark Woodruff
Saco River Salmon Club
PO Box 169
Bar Mills ME 04004

Brian E Thompson, Director, Env Affairs
Lydall Inc
PO Box 328
Troy, NY 12181

John W Vedral III
State Representative
PO Box 693
Bar Mills ME 04004

R Scott Mahoney, Counsel
Central Maine Power Co
83 Edison Dr
Augusta, ME 04336

Norman R Lavigne
Biddeford & Saco Water Co
181 Elm St PO Box 304
Biddeford ME 04005

Edward Antz Asbestos Coord.
ME DEP
17 State House Station
Augusta ME 04333-0017